

**A STUDY OF NATIONALISM AMONG YOUTH IN LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH****<sup>1</sup>Shailendra Singh Rana, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Ritu Agarwal,**<sup>1</sup>Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Lucknow University, Lucknow<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Amity University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226007**ABSTRACT**

*Nationalism is defined as intense patriotic feelings towards one's Nation. Time to time this spirit of Nationalism keeps on changing. For some time this issue has been a sizzling topic of discussion among magazines, media and academic circles. Media platforms and academic campuses across the country have turned into battlefields for defining and discussing the issue of nationalism. This research paper is an attempt to study the features and intensity of nationalism among youth in Lucknow city. We have also tried to know their responses towards nationalistic issues which are seen with the eyes of religion by fundamentalists. The study was quantitative in nature and the survey was conducted in field using a questionnaire administered to respondents personally by the researcher and his team.*

**Keywords-** Lucknow, Nation, Nationalism, Patriotic, Youth.

**INTRODUCTION**

There is unanimity on the point that the feelings of nationalism must be instilled in the mind and heart of young generation right from their childhood. Only by inculcating such intense feelings of nationalism a nation can get the full contribution, love and support of all its citizens irrespective of their religion, race caste or creed. Though nationalism emerged during 19<sup>th</sup> century and based on the ideas of common religion, language, ethnicity etc was a response of third world countries to colonialism, in India the feeling of nationalism was always intense. Before the evolution of nations there were kingdoms and the concept of nation-state was embodied in the king, loyalty was towards God and king not towards God and motherland but in India right from the Vedic days Hindus always treated their land as Bharat Varsha. Vedas praise motherland as goddess Bhudevi and their sense was not political but cultural and spiritual. "Janani Janma-bhoomi-scha Swargadapi Gariyasi" translated as "Mother and motherland are superior to Heaven", a verse found in great Hindu epic Ramayan depicts the importance of one's motherland. India is a country which has faced numerous invasions by Alexander, Changez Khan, Mohammad Bin Qasim, Timur Langra, Mohammad Ghazni, Mohammad Gauri, Afghans under Ahmad Shah Abdali, Mughals under Babur and finally The British. Each time for defending the honor of motherland heroes like Prithviraj Chauhan, Maharana Pratap, Shivaji freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Khudiram Bose etc. stood against such invaders and many of them sacrificed their lives fighting against them. These are just few examples, thousands of such brave people (Sikhs, Rajputs, Gorkhas, Marathas, North East Indians) charged with the feelings of nationalism died protecting our culture and motherland. During recent time also Indians have the same intense feelings for their motherland which are reflected in the following words of ex Prime Minister Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and were repeated by HRD Minister Smt. Smiti Irani in Indian parliament in 2016. Muslim and Alias (2002) considered nationalism as motivation, rationale, hope and renewal, sacrifice, voluntary organizations, state and love of country. Thus in the context of India

nationalism is to be applied by several levels and values such as proud as Indian, respect the identity of the country such as national flag, national anthem, national song etc.

Before carrying out this study and doing a full investigation we went through a variety of secondary sources to discover the issues related with nationalism. We found many studies and instances using the word (Nationalism) written and reported by intellectuals and media. Many of them reported in press were marred. On the basis of literature review we used two constructs related to nationalism- national pride and connection with countrymen each consisting of 9 and 4 items respectively measured on likert scale and one separate construct for issues related with the feelings of nationalism but often seen with the eyes of religion by fundamentalists. These items are mapped in the subsequent section of research methodology.

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

What are the features of nationalism among youth in Lucknow city?

What is the intensity of nationalism among youth in Lucknow city?

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Population of the study-** This research study was conducted on the youth in Lucknow city.

**Sample size-** Total number of respondents in this study was 50.

**Sampling technique-** For conducting the survey we used quota sampling. Since Nationalism is often connected with religion quotas were defined on the basis of the religion of the respondents. So we surveyed 54% Hindus, 36% Muslims, 4% Sikhs and 6% people from other religions. Respondents were selected on the basis of convenience of the researchers.

**Data collection method and tools-** Data was collected using a structured questionnaire which consisted of 3 questions related to demographic profile of the respondents and 17 questions related with National pride, connection with countrymen and issues related with Nationalism but often seen in the light of religious beliefs. Responses were measured on a Likert Scale.

**Data analysis tool-** Data was analyzed using SPSS IBM version 16.0 for windows.

#### **Mapping of questions**

The level and characteristics of Nationalism were based on following two constructs each consisting of 9 and 4 items respectively.

Construct 1- National Pride (9 items)

Construct-2 Connection with countrymen (4 items) and

One separate construct was used for knowing the responses of issues related with nationalism but often connected with religion by fundamentalists. (4 items)

### **Construct-1 National Pride**

- I enjoy talking about my country because it makes me proud of my country
  - I enjoy reading about Indian Nationalism because it gives me a sense of pride in my country
  - Talking about Indian cricket team is one way I express my national pride
  - Attending the event of National Day gives me a chance to show my national pride
  - Interests of my country comes before all the nations including those who are in desperate needs
  - I have my National Flag prominently displayed in my vehicle and my home during Independence day and Republic Day
  - I will not pay more for a Indian product if it's cheap imported Chinese substitute is available
  - National interests are more important than international interests
  - I welcome the decision of Supreme Court regarding playing National Anthem before the screening of films in cinema halls
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- Talking about India with my country fellow men gives me a feeling of national unity
  - I think India is the best country in the world to live in
  - I get angry when I see my fellow countrymen bursting crackers at Pakistan's victory over India
  - I am a loyal fan of my cricket team whether it wins or loose

- I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations
- I proudly say Bharat Mata ki jai
- I do not proudly say Vande Matram
- For me my religion comes first than my country

### **Construct-2 Connection with countrymen**

**Issues related with nationalism but often connected with religion by fundamentalists**

### Reliability test

**Table-1 Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha <sup>a</sup>	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
-.378	.262	17

The value of Cronbach's Alpha was negative on 17 items scale which violated the reliability model assumptions so we kept on checking the value of Cronbach's alpha by deleting each construct one by one and finding the value of Cronbach's alpha for the remaining two constructs.

Following were the results and on the basis of the results we removed III<sup>rd</sup> construct and used Ist and IInd ones for studying nationalism. But the value of Cronbach's Alpha for III<sup>rd</sup> construct of 4 items was 0.408 so we used it separately for knowing the bearing of religion on nationalistic issues.

**Table-2 Reliability Statistics(1<sup>st</sup> and III<sup>rd</sup> construct items)**

Cronbach's Alpha <sup>a</sup>	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items <sup>a</sup>	N of Items
-1.181	-.046	13

The value is negative due to a negative average covariance among items. This violates reliability model assumptions.

**Table-3 Reliability Statistics(1<sup>st</sup> and IInd construct items)**

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.732	.713	13

**Table-4 Reliability Statistics(IInd and III<sup>rd</sup> construct items)**

Cronbach's Alpha <sup>a</sup>	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items <sup>a</sup>	N of Items
-.134	-.252	8

**Table-5 Reliability Statistics(III<sup>rd</sup> construct items)**

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.408	.110	4

The value is negative due to a negative average covariance among items. This violates reliability model assumptions.

Variable	Categories	Count	Percentage
Age	17-20	16	32%
	21-24	18	36%
	25-28	13	26%
	29-32	3	6%
Gender	Male	32	64%
	Female	18	36%
Religion	Hindu	27	54%
	Muslim	18	36%
	Sikh	2	4%
	Others	3	6%

### Findings and Discussion

Following are the findings of this study-

#### **Table-6**Demographic profile of the respondents

Source : primary data

The respondents of this study were mainly from the age group of 21-24 years. Their percentage is 36%.

Respondents consisted of all the main religions in Lucknow. Majority of them were Hindus (54%), followed by Muslims(36%).

Respondents of this study were mainly males (64%).

Frequencies related with each item of constructs are given below-

**Table-7 Frequencies on connection with countrymen**

Questions on "connection with countrymen"	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Talking about India with my country fellow men gives me a feeling of national unity	14.0% 7	34.0% 17	26.0% 13	18.0% 9	8.0% 4
I think India is the best country in the world to live in	60.0% 30	18.0% 9	4.0% 2	12.0% 6	6.0% 3
I get angry when I see my fellow countrymen bursting crackers at Pakistan's victory over India in cricket	92.0% 46	.0% 0	.0% 0	2.0% 1	6.0% 3
I am a loyal fan of Indian cricket team whether it wins or loses	20.0% 10	30.0% 15	16.0% 8	24.0% 12	10.0% 5

Source:Primary data

Out of total 50 respondents only 14% strongly agree that talking about India with their fellow countrymen gives them a feeling of national unity which shows a worrying trend. 60% of the respondents strongly agree that India is the best country in the world to live in. 92% of them strongly agree that bursting of crackers by fellow countrymen at Pakistan's victory over India makes them angry though only 20% of them strongly agree that they are the loyal fan of Indian cricket team whether it wins or loses.

**Table-8 Frequencies on National Pride**

Questions on National Pride	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I enjoy talking about my country because it makes me proud of my country	66% 33	16% 8	8% 4	10% 5	0% 0
I enjoy reading about Indian Nationalism because it gives me a sense of pride in my country	14% 7	26% 13	32% 16	26% 13	2% 1
Talking about Indian cricket team is one way I express my national pride	32% 16	38% 19	18% 9	6% 3	6% 3
Attending the event of National Day gives me a chance to show my national pride	26% 13	36% 18	22% 11	14% 7	2% 1
Interests of my country comes before all the nations including those who are in desperate needs	48% 24	14% 7	6% 3	8% 4	24% 12
I have my National Flag prominently displayed in my vehicle and my home during Independence day and Republic Day	20% 10	26% 13	32% 16	14% 7	8% 4
I will not pay more for a Indian product if it's cheap imported Chinese substitute is available	12% 6	36% 18	40% 20	10% 5	2% 1
National interests are more important than international interests	22% 11	36% 18	28% 14	10% 5	4% 2
I welcome the decision of Supreme Court regarding playing National Anthem before the screening of films in cinema halls	68% 34	0% 0	6% 3	16% 8	10% 5

Source:primary data

From the survey for National Pride, it can be concluded that most of the respondents gave positive responses. It shows that the young generation has the feelings to express and celebrate their nationalism. Young generation is reading less about Indian nationalism which may be a side effect of declining reading habits among youths. Most of the younger people feel pride in attending the event of National days. A strong majority of them put the interests of their country before all the nations including those who are in desperate needs. For the question of display of National flag 32% of them are neutral. 40% of them are neutral towards Indian and Chinese products. 68% of them

welcomes the decision of Supreme Court regarding playing National Anthem in cinema halls before the screening of films.

We also attempted to know the opinions of respondents regarding the issues entirely related with the feelings of nationalism but often connected with the religious beliefs by the fundamentalists.

By asking such opinions of the respondents we tried to get an idea about the individual's devotion and loyalty to their country surpassing the boundaries of religion. For checking their association with religion we have applied chi square tests also. Following are the summary statistics and the results of chi square tests -

**Table-9** Frequencies on the issues related with Nationalism but often connected with religion by fundamentalists

Questions	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations	34.0% 17	8.0% 4	2.0% 1	2.0% 1	54.0% 27
I proudly say Bharat Mata ki jai	64.0% 32	4.0% 2	10.0% 5	16.0% 8	6.0% 3
I do not proudly say Vande Matram	28.0% 14	6.0% 3	2.0% 1	.0% 0	64.0% 32
For me my religion comes first than my country	36.0% 18	.0% 0	.0% 0	4.0% 2	60.0% 30

Source:primary data



**Table-10**Bifurcation of responses within religion

Source:primary data

Statement	Responses	Hindu	Muslims	Sikh	Others
I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations	Strongly agree	7.4%	83.3%	.0%	.0%
	Somewhat agree	11.1%	5.6%	.0%	.0%
	Neutral	.0%	5.6%	.0%	.0%
	Somewhat disagree	3.7%	.0%	.0%	.0%
I proudly say bharat mata ki jai	Strongly disagree	77.8%	5.6%	100.0%	100.0%
	Strongly agree	92.6%	11.1%	100.0%	100.0%
	Somewhat agree	3.7%	5.6%	.0%	.0%
	Neutral	3.7%	22.2%	.0%	.0%
Singing Vande Matram is against the beliefs of my religion	Somewhat disagree	.0%	44.4%	.0%	.0%
	Strongly disagree	.0%	16.7%	.0%	.0%
	Strongly agree	.0%	77.8%	.0%	.0%
	Somewhat agree	.0%	16.7%	.0%	.0%
For me my religion comes first than my country	Neutral	.0%	5.6%	.0%	.0%
	Somewhat disagree	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
	Strongly disagree	100.0%	.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Strongly agree	.0%	100.0%	.0%	.0%
	Somewhat agree	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
	Neutral	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
	Somewhat disagree	7.4%	.0%	.0%	.0%
	Strongly disagree	92.6%	.0%	100.0%	100.0%

For knowing the bearing of religion on each item of this construct we framed four research hypothesis and applied chi square tests. Following are the results of these tests-

Source: primary data

**Table-11 Cross tabulation**

**Religion of the respondent \* I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations**

		I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations					Total
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	
Religion of the Hindu respondent	Count	2	3	0	1	21	27
	Expected Count	9.2	2.2	.5	.5	14.6	27.0
	Muslims Count	15	1	1	0	1	18
	Expected Count	6.1	1.4	.4	.4	9.7	18.0
	Sikh Count	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Expected Count	.7	.2	.0	.0	1.1	2.0
	Others Count	0	0	0	0	3	3
	Expected Count	1.0	.2	.1	.1	1.6	3.0
Total	Count	17	4	1	1	27	50
	Expected Count	17.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	27.0	50.0

**Chi-Square Test values**

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.300 <sup>a</sup>	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	42.255	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.518	1	.218
N of Valid Cases	50		

a. 16 cells (80.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .04.

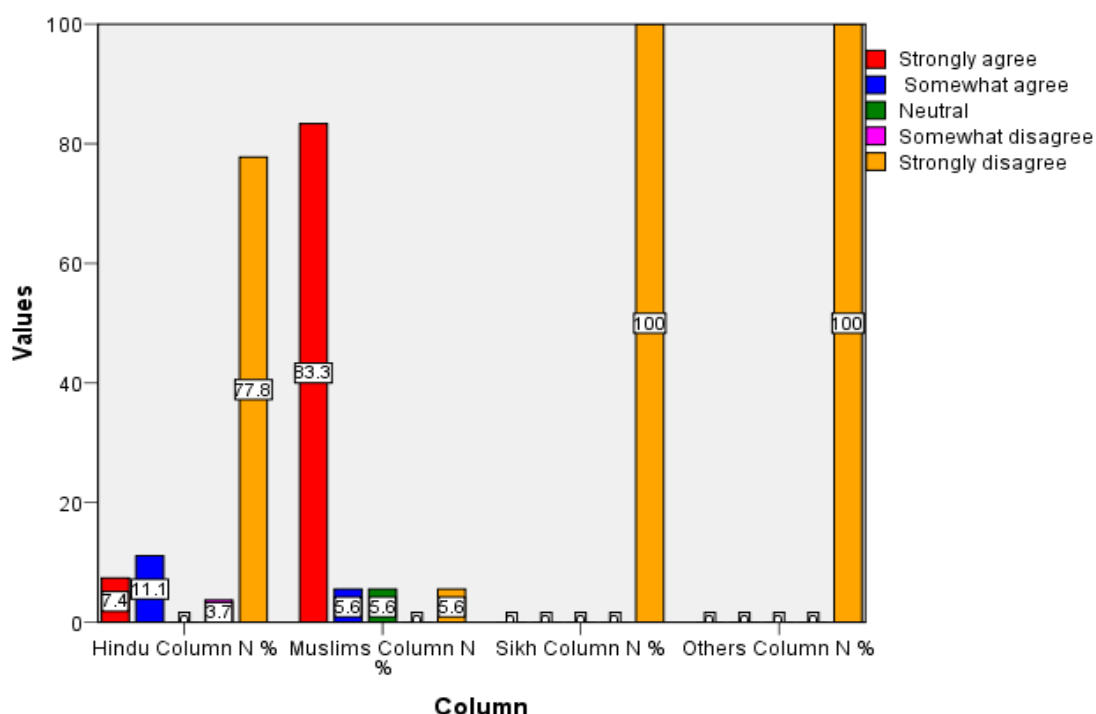
**Research hypothesis:** There is significant association between “religion” and “I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations”

**Null hypothesis:** There is no significant association between “religion” and “I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations”

**Findings:** Since  $P \text{ value} = 0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$  so null hypothesis is rejected and we conclude that there is significant association between “religion” and “I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations”

Following bar chart displays the responses of the above question within the religions. Out of total 27 Hindus 77.8% strongly disagree with the statement whereas this percentage is very low in case of Muslims (5.6%). 100% Sikhs and 100% respondents other religions strongly disagree with the statement.

**Percentage of responses within the religions  
(I do not want Surya Namaskar to be performed during Yoga day celebrations)**



**Table-12 Crosstabulation****Religion of the respondent \* For me my religion comes first than my country**

		For me my religion comes first than my country			Total
		Strongly agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	
Religion of the Hindu respondent	Count	0	2	25	27
	Expected Count	9.7	1.1	16.2	27.0
	Muslims Count	18	0	0	18
	Expected Count	6.5	.7	10.8	18.0
	Sikh Count	0	0	2	2
	Expected Count	.7	.1	1.2	2.0
Others	Count	0	0	3	3
	Expected Count	1.1	.1	1.8	3.0
Total	Count	18	2	30	50

Source: primary data

**Chi-Square Test values**

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	50.617 <sup>a</sup>	6	.000
Likelihood Ratio	66.046	6	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.483	1	.019
N of Valid Cases	50		

a. 8 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .08.

**Research hypothesis:** There is significant association between religion and the opinion regarding which comes first for the respondent religion or the nation.

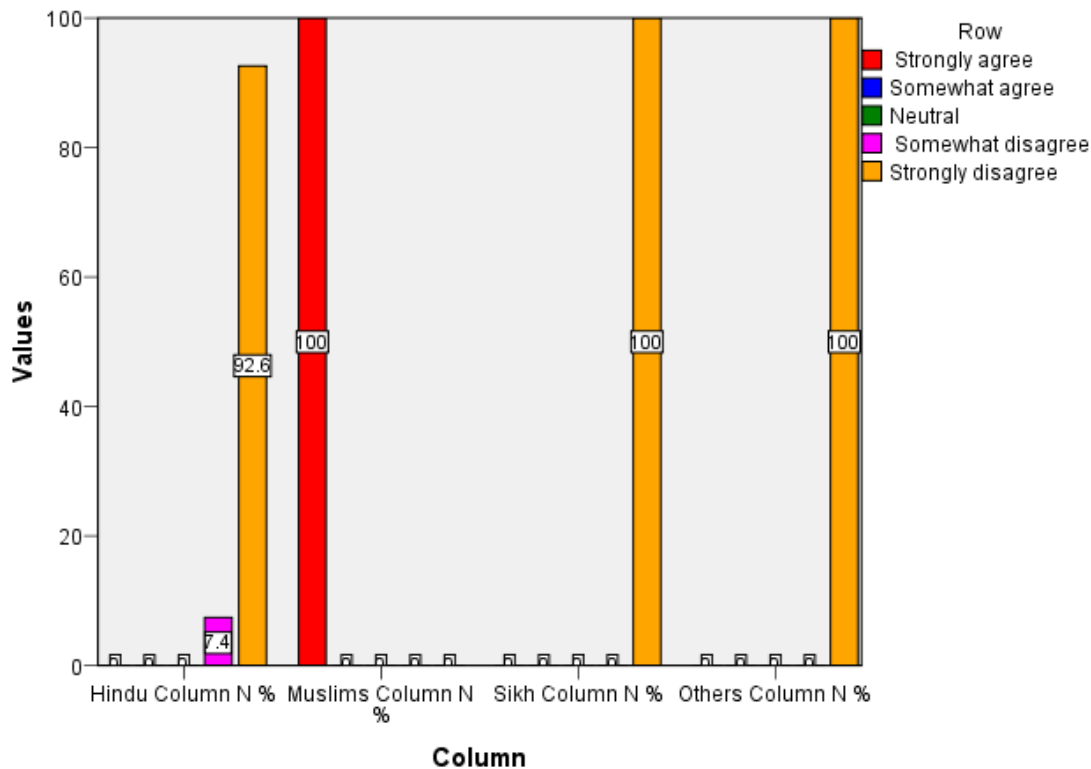
**Null hypothesis:** There is no significant association between religion and the opinion regarding which comes first for the respondent religion or the nation.

**Findings:** Since the p value = 0.000 <  $\alpha = 0.05$  so we reject the null hypothesis and thus we may conclude that there is significant association between the religion and the opinion regarding which comes first for the respondent his/her religion of his/her nation.

Following bar chart displays the responses of the statement “for me religion comes first than nation”.

Out of total Hindus 92.6% strongly disagree with this statement whereas 100% Muslim respondents strongly agree with it which reflects the importance of religion over country. All the Sikhs and people from other religions also strongly disagree with this statement.

**Percentages of responses within the religion  
(for me my religion comes first than country)**



**Table-13 Crosstabulation**

**Religion of the respondent \* I proudly say Bharat mata ki jai**

			I proudly say bharat mata ki jai					Total
			Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	
Religion of the respondent	Hindu	Count	25	1	1	0	0	27
		Expected Count	17.3	1.1	2.7	4.3	1.6	27.0
	Muslims	Count	2	1	4	8	3	18
		Expected Count	11.5	.7	1.8	2.9	1.1	18.0
	Sikh	Count	2	0	0	0	0	2
		Expected Count	1.3	.1	.2	.3	.1	2.0
	Others	Count	3	0	0	0	0	3
		Expected Count	1.9	.1	.3	.5	.2	3.0
	Total		32	2	5	8	3	50

Source : primary data

### Chi-Square Test values

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.458 <sup>a</sup>	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	43.306	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.512	1	.061
N of Valid Cases	50		

a. 18 cells (90.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .08.

**Research hypothesis:** There is significant association between

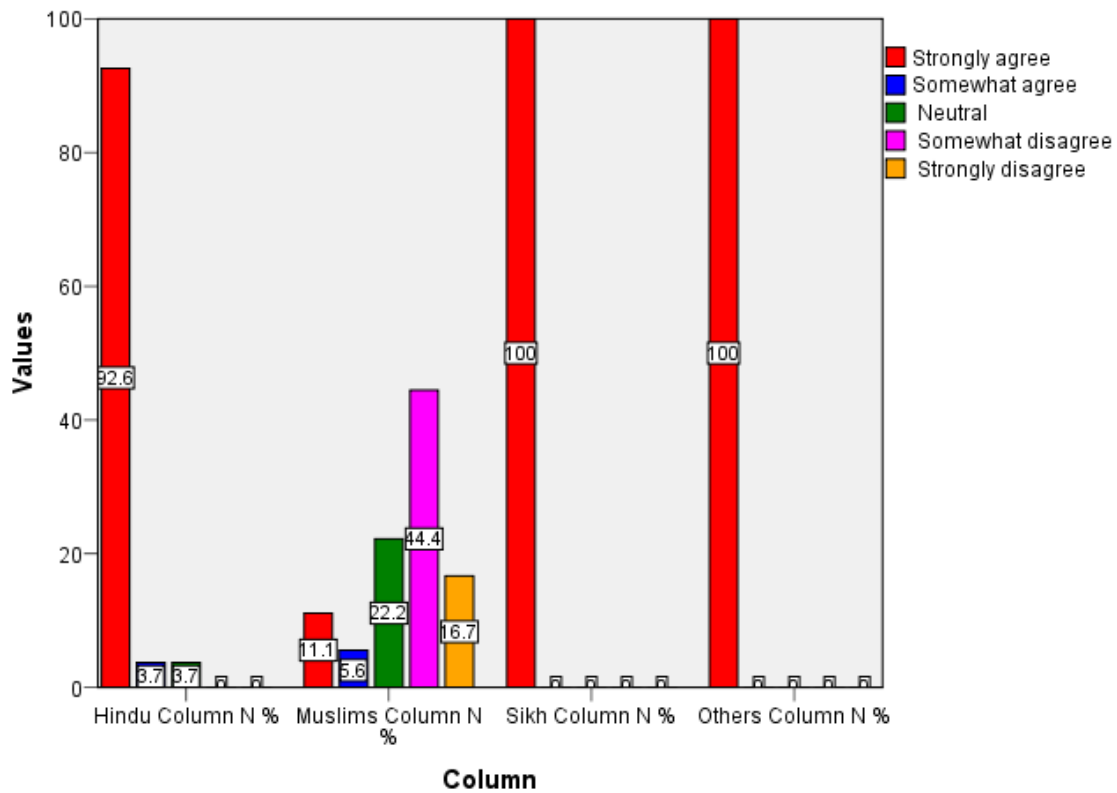
“respondents’ religion” and “I proudly say Bharat Mata ki jai

**Null hypothesis:** There is no significant association between “respondent’s religion” and “I proudly say Bharata Mata ki jai

**Finding:** Since  $p \text{ value} = 0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$  so the null hypothesis is rejected and we can conclude that saying “Bharat Mata ki jai is significantly associated with one’s religion.

Out of total 27 Hindus 92.6% strongly agree that they proudly say Bharat Mata ki jai whereas this percentage was very low (11.1%) in case of Muslims whereas 100% Sikhs and 100% respondents from other religions strongly agree with the statement.

**Percentages of responses within the religions  
(I proudly say Bharat Mata ki jai)**



**Table-14 Crosstabulation**

**Religion of the respondent \* I do not proudly say Vande Matram**

		Singing Vande Matram is against the beliefs of my religion				Total
		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Strongly disagree	
Religion of the Hindu respondent	Count	0	0	0	27	27
	Expected Count	7.6	1.6	.5	17.3	27.0
	Muslims Count	14	3	1	0	18
	Expected Count	5.0	1.1	.4	11.5	18.0
	% within Religion of the respondent	77.8%	16.7%	5.6%	.0%	100.0%
	Sikh Count	0	0	0	2	2
	Expected Count	.6	.1	.0	1.3	2.0
	Others Count	0	0	0	3	3
	Expected Count	.8	.2	.1	1.9	3.0
	Total Count	14	3	1	32	50
	Expected Count	14.0	3.0	1.0	32.0	50.0

Source : primary data

**Chi-Square Test values**

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	50.000 <sup>a</sup>	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	65.342	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.691	1	.017
N of Valid Cases	50		

a. 12 cells (75.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .04.

**Research hypothesis:** There is significant association between “religion” and “I do not proudly say



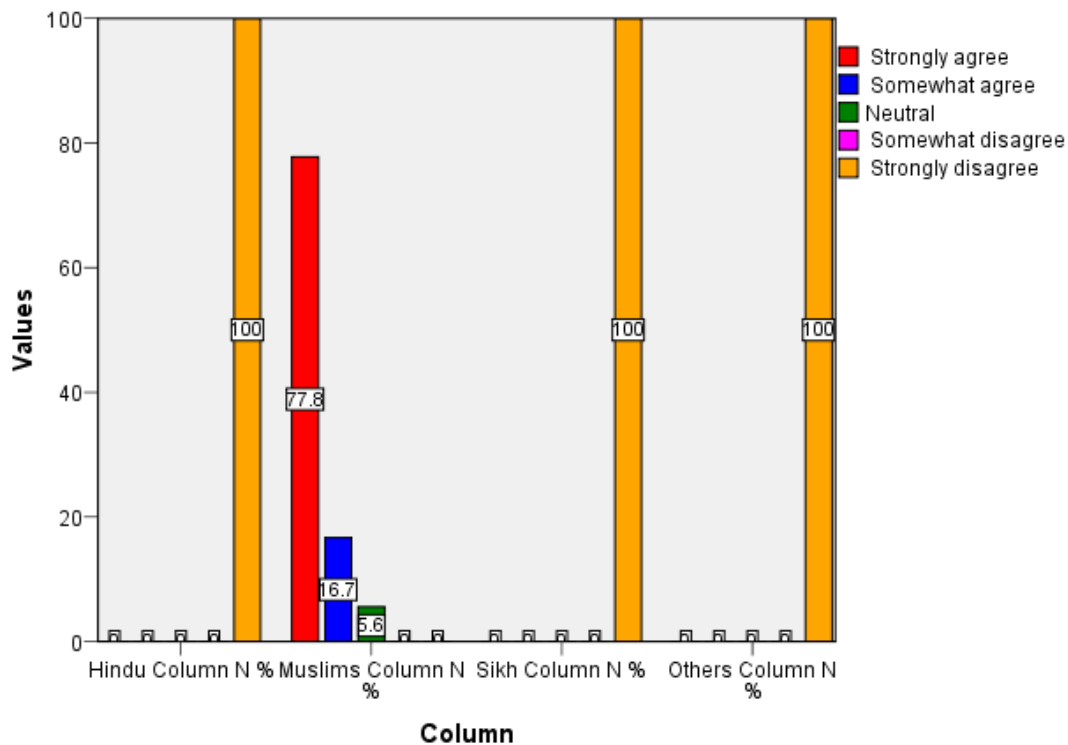
Vande Matram“

**Null hypothesis:** There is no significant association between “religion” and “I do not proudly say Vande Matram“

**Finding:** Since  $p \text{ value} = 0.000 < \alpha = 0.05$  sp the null hypothesis is rejected and we have found significant association between “religion” and “I do not proudly say Vande Matram”.

100% Hindus strongly disagree with the statement it means they proudly say Vande Matram whereas 77.8% Muslims do not proudly say it. 100% Sikhs and same percentage of people from other religionstoo strongly disagree with this statement.

**Percentages of responses within the religion  
(I do not proudly say Vande Matram)**



## CONCLUSION

In the pursuit of maintaining and shaping the feelings of nationalism in young generation the advancement of science must be pursued in the framework. The future of any nation lies in the hands of young generation, this is particularly true for India because 50% of its population is below 25 years and 65% population is below 35 years. Inculcation of feelings of nationalism will definitely prepare the young generation that will contribute significantly towards the development and social welfare of the country. Decisions such as celebrating Yoga day, Independence Day and Republic Day, mandatorily singing of National Anthem, Raising slogans “Vande Matram” and “Bharat Mata ki jai” in all educational institutes irrespective of their category and status are required to be taken on the part of state and central governments. Practice of saying yes sir/mam at the time of attendance may be replaced by jai hind, jai Bharat and vande matram.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- 1- This research study was based on primary data collected from the respondents using quota sampling which is a non-probability sampling so it suffers from all the limitations of sampling in general and non-probability in particular. Non-representativeness of sample is one of such limitations which cannot be ignored.
- 2- Due to a very small sample size one must be very cautious in generalizing the findings of this study to the entire population of youth. Findings do not have universal applicability.
- 3- More in-depth comparative studies need to be conducted to study the effects of religion on the feelings of nationalism.
- 4- There is again a caveat to the readers not to generalize the findings of this research study to the entire population of youth in Lucknow since the sample was selected on the basis of quotas defined on the basis of religions.

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